

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

1. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

With regard to distribution of processing tasks on the computer equipment, FIGURES 1A and 1B are but one possible embodiment. For example, various processing tasks performed by computers 108, 114, and 118 on the manufacturer's local network 100 could be performed on fewer computers. As another example, although FIGURE 1B illustrates Steps [[120]] 121 - 124 as being all performed by a single interface computer 108, these steps could be performed on different computer equipment. Although the following description refers to certain processing tasks as being performed by specific computers in local network 100, in a more general sense, these tasks can be thought of as being performed by local network 100.

- 2 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

The customer also has a circuit design computer 104. Circuit design computer 104 stores programming for generating designs of the customer's integrated circuit. It is possible that computers 102 and 104 could be the same equipment, although typically, computer 102 is a PC type computer and computer 104 is a UNIX type workstation. The customer's circuit design data is stored in the customer's design library database 106. As illustrated by Step 127 of FIGURE 1B, at some point prior to manufacture of the photomask(s), this design data is transferred to customer design database 110 for access by the manufacturer's local network.